

Sea Level Rise Focus Group Recommendations

|   |  | Coastal Defenses | Industrial Land Use | Land Use | Land Preservation and Habitat | Transportation | Water and Wastewater |
|---|--|------------------|---------------------|----------|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Key:<br>X indicates that the specific recommendation was made by that focus group<br>O indicates areas of overlap from similar recommendations. |  |                  |                     |          |                               |                |                      |
|   |  |                  |                     |          |                               |                |                      |
| A   | Improve Communication and Coordination between State, Federal, Local and Regional Partners to Streamline Sea Level Rise Adaptation Efforts   |                  |                     |          |                               |                |                      |
| 1   | Inventory existing funding, coordination, regulations and policies for barriers and opportunities  |                  | X                   |          |                               |                |                      |
| 2   | Coordinate with Maryland Department of Transportation  |                  |                     |          |                               | X              |                      |
| 3   | Use the Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) Climate Change Framework as a Multi-mode approach to integrate across agency and create a better ability for coordination between Maryland and Delaware   |                  |                     |          |                               | X              |                      |
| 4   | Improve Coordination of permit decisions at the Federal, state and local level   |                  | X                   |          |                               | O              |                      |
| 5   | Incorporate sea level rise into regional planning efforts  |                  | X                   |          |                               | O              | O                    |
| 6   | Leverage resources for research and development of shoreline stabilization techniques and sediment management techniques through regional, state and federal partnerships  |                  |                     |          | X                             |                |                      |
| 7   | Coordinate future land purchases and preservation opportunities with the with Open Space Council and Agricultural Land Preservation Program  |                  |                     | X        | O                             |                |                      |
| 8   | Develop a Sea Level Rise Group within American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO)  |                  |                     |          |                               | X              |                      |
| B   | Provide increased regulatory flexibility for adaptation and improve consistency between regulatory agency decisions  |                  |                     |          |                               |                |                      |
| 1   | Create a “Coastal Road” designation  |                  |                     |          |                               | X              |                      |
| 2   | **Allow Conceptual design planning for sea level rise to expedite permit process   |                  |                     |          |                               | X              |                      |
| 3   | **Allow connection of individual septic systems to community systems with excess capacity  |                  |                     |          |                               |                | X                    |
| 4   | **Promote local land use ordinances that discourage the siting of infrastructure in potential inundation areas without considering the effects of sea level rise   |                  |                     |          |                               |                | X                    |
| 5   | Consider sea level rise implications in future regulatory updates of wastewater systems and wells  |                  |                     |          |                               |                | X                    |
| 6   | Inventory existing funding, coordination, regulations and policy for barriers and opportunities  | O                | X                   |          |                               |                |                      |
| 7   | Ensure that state regulations are not contradictory or at cross purposes   |                  | X                   |          |                               |                |                      |
| 8   | Sign an Executive order to direct agencies to plan and manage for sea level rise   | O                | O                   | O        | O                             | O              | X                    |
| 9   | **Improve political willingness to include sea level rise in decision making process   | X                | O                   | O        | O                             | O              | O                    |
| 10  | Incentivize regulations that encourage adaptation to sea level rise and allow innovate projects  |                  | X                   |          |                               | O              | O                    |
| 11  | **Evaluate the state Coastal Zone Act for changes that would allow industry more flexibility to adapt to sea level rise.   |                  | X                   |          |                               |                |                      |
| 12  | Create legislation to address transfer of facilities in case of retreat: decrease number of abandoned assets, liability of assisting facilities  |                  | X                   |          |                               |                |                      |
| 13  | Expand DNREC authority to acquire and/or protect areas identified as feasible and necessary for wetland migration  |                  |                     |          | X                             |                |                      |
| C   | Provide consistent and predictable policies for future growth, investment, and natural resource management.  |                  |                     |          |                               |                |                      |
| 1   | Incorporate sea level rise into the Strategies for State Spending and Policy and Comprehensive Development Plans   | O                | X                   | X        | X                             | O              |                      |
| 2   | **Incorporate sea level rise into Delaware’s Long Term Transportation Master Plan  |                  |                     |          |                               | X              |                      |
| 3   | Incorporate sea level rise into the Transportation Operations Management Plan  |                  |                     |          |                               | X              |                      |
| 4   | **Include sea level rise in the transportation design manuals  |                  |                     |          |                               | X              |                      |
| 5   | **Develop a Statewide Retreat Plan   |                  | O                   | X        | O                             | X              |                      |
| 6   | Conduct a legal review of Disinvestment and Abandonment  |                  |                     | X        |                               | O              |                      |
| 7   | Consider use of a statewide Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) tool  |                  |                     | X        |                               |                |                      |
| 8   | **Develop a dike and levee safety program similar to the Dam Safety Program  | X                |                     |          |                               |                |                      |
| 9   | Designate Shoreline Zones for Adaptation Action  |                  | X                   | O        | O                             |                |                      |
| 10  | Understand need for protection between bayshore communities  | X                |                     |          |                               |                | O                    |
| 11  | **Prioritize planning for unincorporated towns   | O                |                     |          |                               |                | X                    |
| 12  | Develop comprehensive wetlands restoration strategy  |                  | O                   | O        | X                             | O              |                      |
| 13  | Re-evaluate management strategy of existing coastal impoundments   |                  |                     |          | X                             |                |                      |
| 14  | Evaluate benefits/risks of allowing private impoundments   |                  |                     |          | X                             |                |                      |
| 15  | Develop a Framework for decision making regarding land protection and restoration strategies based on habitat vulnerability, migration potential and relative importance in the regional landscape, historical significance or other key factors |                  | O                   | O        | X                             | O              |                      |
| 16  | Develop means to evaluate natural preserves to determine response  |                  |                     | O        | X                             |                |                      |
| D   | Increase Public Awareness of Sea Level Rise through Education, Outreach and Marketing  |                  |                     |          |                               |                |                      |
| 1   | **Develop a Comprehensive Outreach Strategy, Educate public about sea level rise   | O                |                     | O        | X                             | X              |                      |
| 2   | **Education and Outreach for impacted communities and citizens   | O                |                     | X        | O                             | O              |                      |
| 3   | **Signs warning of sea level rise  |                  |                     |          |                               | X              |                      |
| 4   | Require real estate disclosures for properties in vulnerable areas, providing a means for potential homebuyers to understand their risks to sea level rise   |                  |                     | X        |                               |                | X                    |
| 5   | **Improve data availability to the public (and others), including information about success stories as well as marketing and education   | X                | X                   | X        | O                             | X              | O                    |
| 6   | Targeted outreach to water and wastewater operators and water utilities  |                  |                     |          |                               |                | X                    |
| E   | Expand funding opportunities for adaptation planning and implementation projects   |                  |                     |          |                               |                |                      |
| 1   | **Modify the Hotel Accommodations Tax to increase funds  | X                | X                   |          | X                             |                |                      |
| 2   | Revise Strategies for State Spending to allow State Revolving Fund (SRF) and other public funding to be allocated for projects in Level 4 areas. Create Revolving Loan Fund for adaptation responses   |                  |                     | X        |                               |                | X                    |
| 3   | Consider use of Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) funds for adaptation actions in industrial areas   |                  | X                   |          |                               |                |                      |
| 4   | Evaluate the federal Farm Bill or farmland conservation programs to identify financial compensation to encourage wetland migration on farmlands adjacent to wet areas  |                  |                     |          | X                             |                |                      |
| 5   | Inventory existing funding, coordination, regulations and policy for barriers and opportunities  | O                | X                   |          |                               |                |                      |
| 6   | Possible, broad funding sources: Total Maximum Daily Load funds, Cancer Settlement Funds, Hazardous Substance Cleanup Act funding, MAP-21, New Energy Bill (?)   |                  | X                   |          |                               | X              |                      |
| 7   | **Increase funding availability for the Port of Wilmington   |                  | X                   |          |                               |                |                      |

|  |  | Coastal Defenses | Industrial Land Use | Land Use | Land Preservation and Habitat | Transportation | Water and Wastewater |
|--|--|------------------|---------------------|----------|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| <b>Key:</b><br>X indicates that the specific recommendation was made by that focus group<br>O indicates areas of overlap from similar recommendations. |  |                  |                     |          |                               |                |                      |
| F Improve the Availability & Robustness of Sea Level Rise Data Sets  |  |                  |                     |          |                               |                |                      |
| 1  | **Conduct a risk assessment for Delaware’s system of dikes & levees  | X                |                     |          |                               |                |                      |
| 2  | **Develop and maintain a comprehensive database that contains the location and condition of all wastewater infrastructure  |                  |                     |          |                               |                | X                    |
| 3  | **Identify Data Needs to Plan Transportation Investments   |                  |                     |          |                               | X              |                      |
| 4  | **Model Potential Stormwater Inundation Problems in highly vulnerable areas  | X                |                     |          |                               |                |                      |
| 5  | Develop a model that will predict changes to salinity in surface water that may occur under differing sea level rise scenarios   |                  | X                   |          | X                             |                |                      |
| 6  | Develop a statewide groundwater model  |                  | X                   |          |                               |                | X                    |
| 7  | Create a Research and Policy Center at the University of Delaware that would focus on applied research for sea level rise and adaptation   |                  | X                   |          |                               |                |                      |
| 8  | Improve monitoring of current sea level conditions and improve predictions for timing of inundation  | O                | X                   | X        |                               |                |                      |
| 9  | Increase understanding of the regional implications of loss of industrial areas in coastal Delaware  |                  | X                   |          |                               |                |                      |
| 10   | Improve understanding of impacts to adjacent properties from adaptation actions  |                  | X                   |          |                               |                |                      |
| 11   | Develop sea level models that incorporate storm surge impacts  | O                | X                   |          |                               |                |                      |
| 12   | Foster pilot projects that demonstrate the effectiveness of best management practices for management of agricultural lands affected by sea level rise  |                  |                     |          | X                             |                |                      |
| 13   | **Identify and Preserve areas for potential wetland migration  |                  |                     |          | X                             |                |                      |
| 14   | ** Encourage Federal agencies to integrate Sea Level Rise Planning into their models   | X                |                     |          |                               |                |                      |
| G Provide technical assistance to partners for assessing vulnerability and choosing adaption strategies  |  |                  |                     |          |                               |                |                      |
| 1  | **Ensure consistent decision-making between state agencies   |                  |                     | X        |                               | O              |                      |
| 2  | **Create a Coordinated Effort to Provide Technical Assistance to Local Governments, including funding  | X                |                     | X        |                               |                |                      |
| 3  | Provide land managers and farmers with the information and Extension support necessary to manage lands in areas affected by sea level rise   |                  |                     |          | X                             |                |                      |
| 4  | Provide Technical Assistance for Industrial and Port Facilities to incorporate sea level rise into investment plans and continuity of business plans   |                  | X                   |          |                               |                |                      |
| 5  | Develop a Best Management Practice Manual for Adaptation in Delaware   |                  |                     |          |                               | X              |                      |
| H Increase understanding of cost of adapting v. non-action (econimic benefits, socio-economic)   |  |                  |                     |          |                               |                |                      |
| 1  | ** Secure adequate and permanent funding for the Delaware Bayshore Initiative; Conduct a cost benefit analysis through the Bayshore Initiative to justify use of funds   | X                |                     |          | X                             |                |                      |
| 2  | Form a Committee to Investigate Risk Portfolio Issues resulting from sea level rise  |                  | X                   |          |                               |                |                      |
| 3  | ** Abandon roads and redirect funding to recreation; funding options for retreat, coastal tax; identify and determine the feasibility of alternative funding mechanisms to offset costs of sea level rise adaptation responses | O                | O                   |          | X                             | X              | X                    |
| 4  | Revise Strategies for State Spending to allow State Revolving Fund (SRF) and other public funding to be allocated for projects in Level 4 areas  |                  |                     |          |                               |                | X                    |